power plant of National Aluminium Company in Orissa, have been sent by his ministry to the management of the said company; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the company in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Professional studies by minority students

830. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of minorities who have completed their professional studies in the country;

(b) the facilities that Government are providing to minorities to carry out their professional studies;

(c) whether any scholarships are given to minority students who are pursuing their professional studies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total percentage of minority students pursuing their professional studies?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) No data regarding the number of people who have completed their professional studies in the country is available, including the data for minority students.

(b) to (d) The Central Ministries, other Agencies and the State Governments provide scholarships based on merit to all students including minority community students.

(e) The data is not available.

Amendments in Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954

831. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since constituted a committee to go into the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament

Act, 1954, for making suitable amendments therein to make salary, allowances etc. of Members of Parliament realistic as an assurance was given in Rajya Sabha on the 25th August, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof, the terms of reference and time given to submit the report to Government; and

(c) if the committee has not so far been constituted, the reasons for delay and by when it is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) The matter relating to revision of salary, allowances and pension of Members of Parliament is under consideration of the Government.

Government funds for contesting elections

†832. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to provide thirty five lakh rupees from Government exchequer to contestants for contesting election in each Lok Sabha constituency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Government has, however, considered the various recommendations/proposal relating to State funding of election received by it. With a view to building consensus among the recognized political parties, it has decided to request the Election Commission of India for its consideration certain recommendations. Accordingly, on the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.